Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

1. (original) An *in vitro* method for observing an effect of a test agent on a murine tumour model, comprising the steps of:

a) providing at least one synthetic murine living tissue model comprising a three-dimensional array of murine fibroblasts in a collagen gel and at least one murine test cell, wherein the test cell is a model of benign or malignant tumour tissue;

b) contacting the test agent with said model(s); and

c) observing the effect the test agent has on said test cell.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the test cell is supported on a surface of the array.

3. (original) A method according to claim 2 wherein a plurality of test cells form a layer supported on a surface of the array.

4. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the test cell is located within the array.

5. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 [~~to 4~~] wherein the fibroblasts and test cells are derived from the same tissue type.

6. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 [~~to 5~~] wherein the test cell is an epithelial cell.

7. (original) A method according to claim 6 wherein the test cell is from skin, mammary, lung, or intestinal epithelium.

8. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 [~~to 7~~] wherein the model comprises more than one type of test cell.

9. (original) A method according to claim 8 wherein the model comprises a normal test cell and a benign and/or malignant tumour test cell.

10. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein the test cell is labelled.

11. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein the test agent is a chemical agent, pharmaceutical, peptide, protein or nucleic acid or radiation.

12. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 [~~to 10~~] wherein the test agent is a delivery vehicle for a therapeutic agent.

13. . (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ comprising determining the effect of the test agent on test cell number, area, volume, shape, morphology, marker expression or chromosomal fragmentation.

14. . (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ further comprising the step of selecting an agent which has a desired effect on the test cell.

In the Abstract:

Please add the following abstract after the last page of the application:

--ABSTRACT

The invention provides an *in vitro* method for observing an effect of a test agent on a murine tumour model. The model consists a three-dimensional array of murine fibroblasts in a collagen gel which mimics a connective tissue substrate, on or in which are grown benign or malignant murine tumour cells. The model mimics the interactions between the tumour and the underlying tissue substrate, which in turn influence the effect which potential therapeutic or oncogenic agents have on the tumour tissue. Thus the models of the invention provide more physiologically relevant data than monolayer cultures or other available issue models about the effects a particular test agent will have on tumour tissue *in vivo*. Preferred embodiments provide a model of epithelial tissue and tumours derived therefrom.--